

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 9-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 6 is canceled.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JPA 2001-222202 ("JP reference"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that the JP reference discloses all elements recited in claims 1-4 and 9-11. However, the JP reference does not disclose or suggest at least two limitations recited in claim 1, as discussed below.

First, the JP reference does not disclose or suggest that the rear surface is formed with a sheet discharge opening; and a sheet discharge tray is provided to the outside of the main casing at the position under the discharge opening, the sheet discharge tray holding the sheet discharged through the discharge opening, as recited in claim 1.

The JP reference discloses a device having a discharge tray 160 under a discharge opening 100b. See Fig. 39 and paragraphs [0172] and [0175]. As shown in Fig. 39, the discharge tray 160 and the discharge opening 100b are both located at the front surface of casing 100. The Japanese reference does not disclose or suggest a discharge tray and a discharge opening that are located at the rear surface of the casing. Therefore, the JP reference does not disclose or suggest that the rear surface is formed with a sheet discharge opening; and a sheet discharge tray is provided to the outside of the main casing at a position under the discharge opening, the sheet discharge tray holding the sheet discharged through the discharged opening, as recited in claim 1.

Second, the JP reference does not disclose or suggest a document transport mechanism that transports the document past the image reader in a direction from the rear surface to the front surface of the main casing, as recited in claim 1.

In particular, the JP reference discloses, in Fig. 15, that an automatic document feeder 62 transports a document in a U-shaped path from the front side to the front side of the image forming device body 1. In Fig. 39, the JP reference discloses that another automatic document feeder 210 transports a document in another U-shaped path from the rear side to the rear side of the image forming device body 100. The JP reference does not disclose or suggest transporting the document past an image reader in a direction from the rear surface to the front surface of a main casing.

Additionally, the JP reference does not disclose or suggest a developing cartridge that is detachably mounted in an image forming device, a process cartridge that is detachably mounted in the image forming device, or a developing cartridge that is detachable from an electrostatic latent image bearing member, as recited in dependent claims 3 and 10, respectively.

In particular, the JP reference discloses a recording device 130, which is asserted in the Office Action as to correspond to a cartridge (it is unclear whether the Office Action asserts that the recording device 130 corresponds to a process cartridge or a developing cartridge). The recording device 130 rotates with the upper part of the body of the printer in a jam processing opening. See Figs. 38 and 39, and paragraphs [0172] - [0175]. The JP reference does not disclose or suggest detaching the recording device 130. In addition, the JP reference does not disclose or suggest a developing cartridge that is detachably mounted in the printer, a process cartridge that is detachably mounted in the printer, or a developing cartridge that is detachable from an electrostatic latent image bearing member.

For any or all of the above reasons, the JP reference does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 1, and claims 2-4 and 9-11 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4 and 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116(b)(1) since the amendments simply cancel a claim.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 16, 2005

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